

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 6 and 8 as follows:

Q1
1. (Amended) A fluorescent lamp system, comprising:
a fluorescent lamp;
first means for providing electrical energy to the lamp to produce a first range of brightness; and
second means for providing electrical energy to the lamp to continuously maintain operation of the lamp in a glow discharge mode to produce a second range of brightness[, where the lamp operates in the glow discharge mode].

Q2
6. (Amended) A low brightness supply for a fluorescent lamp, comprising:
a source of pulse-width modulated bipolar voltage or current of a level sufficient to continuously maintain the operation of the lamp in [the] a glow discharge mode; and
a switch assembly for connecting the lamp to the source of pulse-width modulated bipolar voltage or current and for preventing voltage or current of a high level sufficient to ignite the lamp from reaching the lamp during the glow discharge mode.

Q3
8. (Amended) A power supply system for a fluorescent lamp, comprising:
a first power supply for providing electrical energy to the lamp to produce a first range of brightness, where the first power supply comprises a source of high-frequency voltage or current;
a second power supply for providing electrical energy to the lamp to produce a second range of brightness, where the second means for providing electrical energy comprises a source of low-frequency[, pulse-width

93/cont. modulated bipolar] voltage or current of a level sufficient to continuously maintain the operation of the lamp in [the] a glow discharge mode; and a switch for switching between the first and second power supplies.

Please add the following new claims:

C 6/9. (New) A system as set forth in claim 8, where the low-frequency voltage has a pulse-width modulated waveform.

94 7/10. (New) A system as set forth in claim 9, where the intensity of the first range of brightness depends on the pulse width and RMS voltage of the pulse-width modulated waveform applied to the lamp.

C 8/11. (New) A system as set forth in claim 8, further comprising two switches alternately connecting the second power supply to a first input and a second input of the lamp.

9/12. (New) A system as set forth in claim 11, further comprising two generators each respectively controlling one of the two switches.

10/13. (New) A system as set forth in claim 12, where the two generators produce complementary pulse-width modulated signals for producing the low-frequency voltage of a level sufficient to continuously maintain the operation of the lamp in the glow discharge mode.

11/14. (New) A system as set forth in claim 13, where the duty cycles of the modulated signals are varied to alter the brightness of the lamp within the first range of brightness.

C 12/15. (New) A system as set forth in claim 8, where the low-frequency voltage has a frequency in the range of 60-400 Hz.